

Economic Development Retail Sales Tax Board
Minutes
November 2, 2023
6:30 p.m.

The Economic Development Retail Sales Tax (EDRST) Board held a virtual meeting on Thursday, November 2, 2023. The meeting commenced at 6:32 pm and adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Voting Members Present:

Kathleen Sorkin
Bobette Patton
Brendan O'Brien
Brandon Bradshaw
Cynthia Martin

Voting Members Absent:

Matthew Bellows
Byron Price

Council Liaison:

Mayor Terry Crow

Staff Present:

Brooke A. Smith, Deputy City Manager/Dir. of Economic Development
Montez Miles, Economic Development Specialist

Others attending:

None

Minutes – April 6, 2023; May 11, 2023

Motioned by Brandon Bradshaw, seconded by Bobette Patton and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes.

Public Comments

There were none received.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Crow announced a celebration on November 11th to rededicate the WWI memorial in Heman Park on Veteran's Day at 11:00 a.m. He said they have been working with many partners to get as many veterans as possible out to the event. He also announced the ribbon cuttings that were held since the last meeting. He also noted that Costco is running 100% over projections, almost doubling their anticipated revenue. He noted that no one is sure exactly why Dierbergs pulled out and stated that he believes Target just has cold feet due to their earnings reports nationwide. He said the developer continues to look for anchors for the development site. He also discussed the residential developments along Delmar. Mayor Crow said they all attended the 35 year anniversary of One McKnight. He then took questions. Brandon Bradshaw asked what was going up across from Mi Ranchito. Mayor Crow answered that it was Crescent Plumbing and gave a little background on how they came to University City. He noted that it would generate a large amount of sales tax and stated that it was a 100 year family owned business.

New Business

i. EDRST Eligibility Requirements

Deputy City Manager led the discussion on EDRST Eligibility Requirements. She reminded the board members that at the last meeting the board decided to open applications for EDRST funding due to the large request received from the LSB. She stated that City Manager Rose wanted the board to consider what types of businesses they would take applications from, noting that the application currently states that any business in the city can apply.

Discussion was had on this topic. The board decided to keep the eligibility requirements open and consider each application on a case-by-case basis, using the scoring matrix to assist in the review process.

Deputy City Manager Smith said she would adjust the schedule for the application process and send it out to the board via email along with the scoring matrix.

Deputy City Manager Smith also discussed staff's plans for marketing and reaching out to the businesses. She also discussed hosting informational sessions for applicants to offer technical assistance.

Board Member Comments

Next Meeting Date – January 4, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjourn

Motioned by Kathy Sorkin, seconded by Brenden O'Brien and carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.